Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification on page 1, after the title as follows:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.

Please amend the specification on page 1, after the previously added phrase "This application is a § 371 of International Application No. PCT/EP00/08994, filed September 14, 2000.":

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION.

Please amend the specification on page 2, after line 12 (the second paragraph) insert:

DEFINITIONS

Please amend the specification on page 2, after line 24 (sixth paragraph) insert:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the specification on page 3, after line 25 (sixth paragraph) insert:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The first paragraph on page 12 has been amended as follows:

Example 3: **Database searches**

Sequence analysis is perfomed using the GCG software (Wisconsin Package Version10.0, Genetics Computer Group (GCG), Madison, Wisconsin). For identity searches, GenEMBL, the Arabidopsis thaliana database (http://genome-www3.stanford.edu/), Kazusa Aragidopsis opening site (KAOS[[;]]http://zearth.kazusa.or.jp/arabi/) and Swissprot are used. Peptide sequences are analysed by GeneQuiz (http://colunba.ebi.ac.uk:8765./gqsrv/submit) or Expasy (http://www.expasy.ch/).

2